Using Pickles/Spices prepared by self-help Groups

†1896. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to use pickles and spices prepared by self-help group to add quality and taste to the food served to the passengers by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. As per Policy, procurement of branded catering/vending items is done by the Zonal Railways from the shortlisted reputed brands of items and from local merket through spot Purchase. Instructions are also issued to all Zonal Railways from time to time to procure raw materials from standard and reputed supplier only and effective and stringent check should be ensured to avoid complaints.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Theft at National Rail Museum

1897. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thieves had struck at the National Rail Museum, Chanakya Puri, Delhi on the 28th July, 2004 and stole some parts of the Fairy Queen, a 149-year old steam locomotives;

(b) if so, the details of the goods stolen from there;

(c) whether the matter has since been investigated;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether some employees of the Rail Museum were found involved in this thoft; and

(f) if so, the action taken against them and steps taken to ensure foolproof security at the prestigious Rail Museum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 2 brass handles and 4 copper

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.